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*Carolina
Country*
August 1977

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FOR NORTH CAROLINA RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERS

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EXCLUSIVELY FOR PERSONS AGES 40^{THRU} 80

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Under age 40? Send for free information on our Guaranteed Issue Life Plan for people 20-40.

Carolina Country Salutes:

Postmaster General Benjamin Bailar and the Postal Service Commission ...for endorsing plans for a 13-cent "citizen rate" for personal letters even if the business rates rises to 16 cents next spring. Bailar said a three-cent hike would impose "a hardship" on many postal customers who don't use the postal service for large volumes of mail but "depend on it when they do" use it. Amen to that!

North Carolina Congressman Charles G. Rose, III, and California Congressman John Moss ...for their efforts to seek a General Accounting Office investigation into security problems with the Social Security computer system. The probe was asked after an audit report showed the computer system lacks adequate security procedures and controls,

leaving its records of more than 27 million Social Security recipients open to fraud and abuse.

Editorials

The United States Senate ...because it voted to continue federal funding for the Clinch River Fast Breeder Reactor at Oak Ridge, Tenn., and a privately-operated nuclear processing plant in Barnwell, S.C., despite White House opposition. The processing plant would turn used-up uranium into plutonium for the Clinch River plant, which would in turn produce more plutonium than it uses to generate

electricity. The Senate votes will allow \$75 million to be spent on the reactor program and \$14 million for the processing plant, although no construction on the reactor will be permitted pending further research. The Carter administration position on these issues would have brought a serious setback in the development of new means of tapping low-cost nuclear energy for electricity.

The U.S. House of Representatives ...for its 198-199 vote to create a National Consumer Cooperative Bank, which would make loans at market rates to consumer cooperatives that usually have difficulty in obtaining funds through private channels. The legislation would permit the bank to lend up to \$5 billion over five years.

State Department of Transportation ...in recognition of its new policy which draws the line on drawing lines—those white ones painted down the middle of the highway. By making the dividing lines shorter and spacing them farther apart, the state is expected to save about 50,000 gallons of paint and about \$160,000 annually. Thus far, the new style lines have been used only in the Raleigh area, but they'll soon be seen across the state.

Rutherford Electric Membership Corp. ...for passing its 40th anniversary as an electric power distributor on June 24. The co-op, which was organized in 1937, originally served only Rutherford and Cleveland Counties. Today it also serves parts of Lincoln, Gaston, Catawba, Caldwell and McDowell Counties. Its membership now totals 27,804.



The Passing Scene

• Students at East Carolina University in Greenville displayed a refreshing interest in the frivolous last spring with a six-day festival in celebration of a fixture in Southern culture—the Moon Pie. The festival featured music, movies and balloons bearing the week's slogan—"A Moon Pie in Every Mouth." A Tennessee bakery donated 4,000 of the chocolate-marshmallow-wafer confections for the event, but the participants had to supply the traditional companions: They had to bring their own RC Colas.

Ain't culture grand!

• In Los Angeles, a newspaper has uncovered the whimsical story of Stanley Sackin, who came up with an unorthodox way of saving 15 cents a month on his phone bill. When Sackin asked the phone company for an unlisted number for his business office, he was told he'd have to pay a surcharge for it. To avoid the surcharge, he invented a fictional business for listing purposes only: Underground Airways. Now, Pacific Telephone Co. doesn't know what, if anything, to do about the ruse.

Happy Moon Pie Day to you too, Ma Bell!

Carolina Country

Read Monthly In More Than 260,000 Homes

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Alton P. Wall — Interim Manager

Owen Bishop — Editor

Spencer Carter — Associate Editor

Margaret Howell — Staff Writer

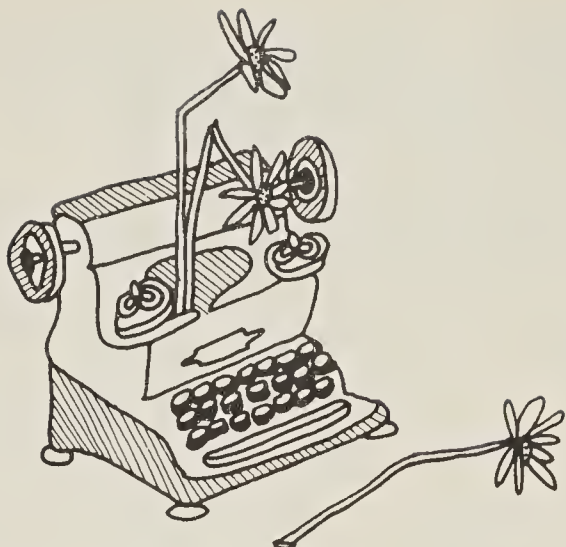
Milly Alford — Editorial Assistant

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COVER—This inviting scene was photographed by a noted North Carolina photography enthusiast—Hugh Morton of Linville. It shows Grassy Creek, a tributary of the Linville River, on the slope of Grandfather Mountain. The photo first appeared in the June, 1976, issue of North Carolina magazine. We are grateful to Mr. Morton and to Bill Armstrong, editor of North Carolina, for allowing us to use the photo on our cover.



rural electric Notebook

"CRISIS INTERVENTION" GRANTS

Low-income families may be able to qualify for federal "crisis intervention" grants to cover unpaid electric and fuel bills stemming from last winter's severe cold weather. In addition, low-income persons aged 60 and over may also qualify for advance payments to cover utility bills for the coming winter. Federal funds totaling up to \$250 for unpaid bills and \$100 in advance payments will be made available through the State Economic Opportunity Office.

Eligibility for the assistance must be established by making application to a designated local agency--either the Department of Social Services or the local community action agency. The agency will authorize direct payments to the utility involved, provided it is participating in the program. All assistance grants under the program must be approved by Aug. 31.

EMC REDUCING PEAK USAGE

Lumbee River Electric Membership Corp., Red Springs, put its new load management system into operation on June 1 in preparation for this summer's peak power usage periods. The system involves electronic controls linking the EMC with air conditioners and water heaters in the homes of 4,000 of its consumer-members.

(See story, Page 27, about bulk tobacco barns that are also included in the control system.)

As peak demand periods occur, the equipment will automatically shut off the appliances for short periods on a rotating basis. During the "peak-shaving" periods, the air conditioner compressors will be turned off for seven minutes out of every half hour, while water heaters will be turned off for a maximum of two hours.

The system became operational for the first time during the last week of June, averting what could have been a record summer peak demand for the co-op. General Manager Derl Hinson estimated that about 6,000 KW had been saved each of the first two days the system was in operation.

The purpose of the project is to reduce the EMC's annual peak demand, which establishes a base for its wholesale power rates. Once the base is set, the EMC pays for that level of power usage year-round, whether it is actually used or not. As a result of this arrangement, Lumbee River EMC paid about \$200,000 for power it did not use during 1976. The load control program is expected to save the EMC an estimated \$300,000 a year in power costs.

Lumbee River EMC is the first utility in North Carolina to make use of a radio-control system to reduce power use in periods of peak demand.

NORTH CAROLINA RURAL ELECTRIC PEOPLE HOSPITAL MONEY for when you'll need it most...

The CO-OP INSURANCE FUND Plan will provide you and your family with **Hospital Money**. In these days of price increases all around us, this ready cash can be a lifesaver and protect your hard earned savings when hospitalized!

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\$1,500.00—(one thousand five hundred dollars)— **MONTHLY**

\$18,000.00—(eighteen thousand dollars)— **YEARLY**

♦ **PLUS \$5,000.00**—100 TIMES the Daily Hospital Payment in case of accidental death.

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THE FIRST . . . THE OLDEST PLAN . . . with the **MOST SATISFIED CUSTOMERS . . .** Developed to use the buying power of millions of Cooperative Members . . . to provide more dependable protection at low GROUP cost.

THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS of Rural Cooperative People COAST TO COAST now rely upon the Co-op Insurance Fund for their hospital protection.

DEPENDABLE . . . HONESTLY DESCRIBED . . . The "CO-OP INSURANCE FUND" (C.I.F.) Hospital Protection provides High Benefits, fair and prompt claims service. Especially developed for cooperative members . . . the same plan provided to cooperative employees.

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"I have nothing but praise for the way my claim has been handled. I would like to thank you again for your personal interest. It is very refreshing to know a company like yours."

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"I cannot praise Co-op Insurance Fund enough. I won't live long enough to pay premiums that would equal what you have paid me already."

Mrs. Ruth Redman
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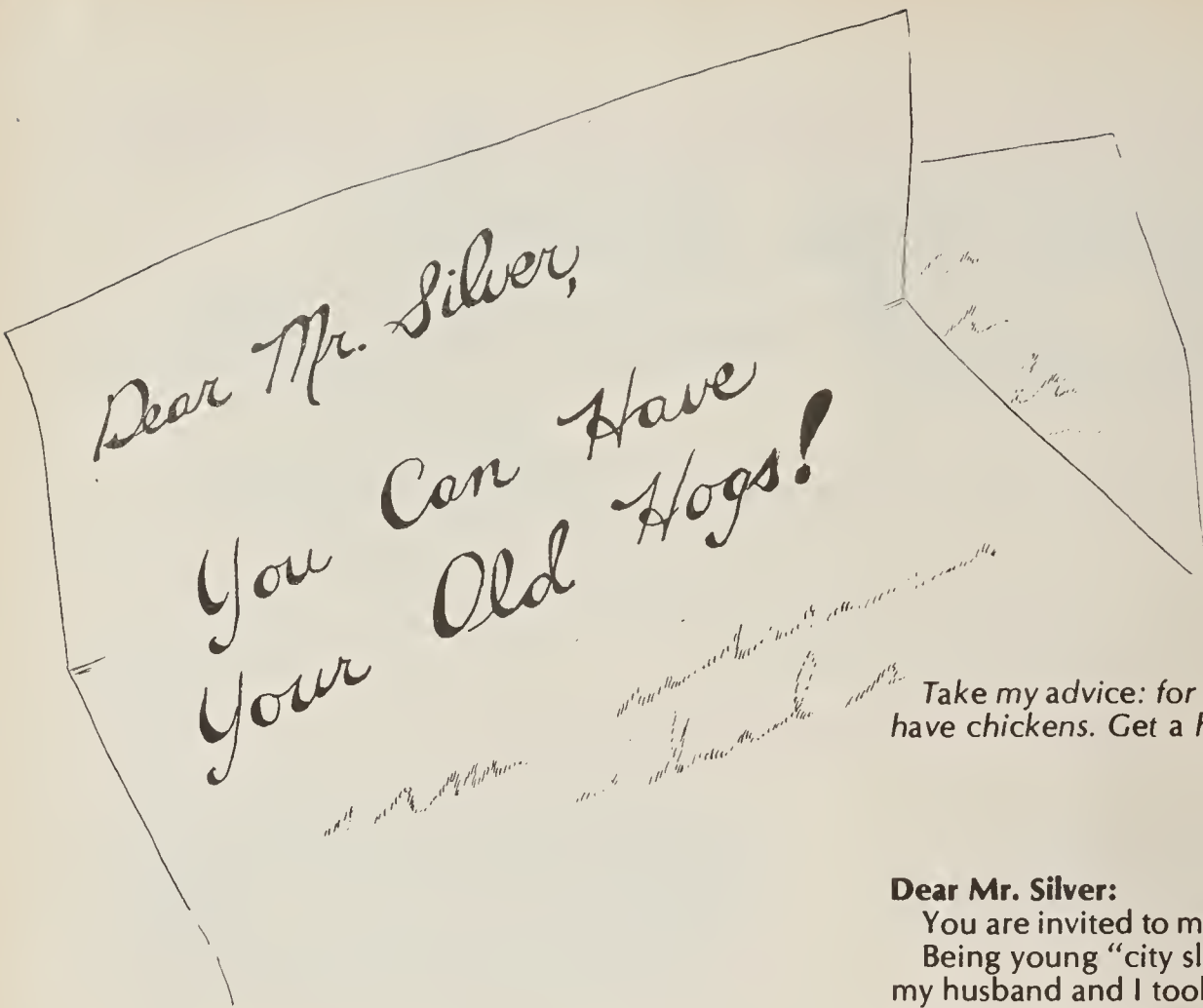
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We will send you

"How To Feel Safe When Buying Hospital Insurance" without cost or obligation



Take my advice: for real pleasure and peace, never have chickens. Get a hog.

—Roy Silver in
"The Trouble With Fowls,"
Carolina Country, May, 1977

Dear Mr. Silver:

You are invited to my house for a lynching—yours! Being young "city slickers," fresh into the country, my husband and I took your advice and bought hogs instead of chickens.

That was the worst mistake of my life!

Like your 150 lovable chicks, our pigs were so-cute. And the price tag for the bacon, hams and pork chops for our freezer made them even more appealing.

Another similarity in our experiences was that I was stuck with the chore of caring for the hogs. Also, it has rained quite a bit this winter—especially every time those darn hogs knocked down the fence or broke the new chain on the gate! Then I had to find my trusty old umbrella, mend the fence, and run into trees trying to get the hogs out of the woods and back where they belonged.

Just as I would have the hogs headed toward their pens, the wind would grab my umbrella and use it to chase the hogs back into the woods!

Both hogs came onto the porch once or twice, but a habit that beat that was the old mudhole trick. You see, both hogs decided that the perfect place for a mudhole was directly in front of (and under) the gate. No matter how far away the water buckets were, those marvelous hogs found ways to keep that mudhole muddy!

Have you ever tried walking through a mudhole while carrying a bucket of feed and being tackled by a hungry hog? Mister, I'll measure chick feed in the rain all day to avoid that mud puddle!!

Due to our experiences (your chickens and my hogs) why don't you change your advice to: "For real pleasure and peace, never have animals. Have a garden!"

Sincerely,
Shirley Scholtes

Roy Silver's article "The Trouble With Fowls," which appeared in the May issue of Carolina Country, drew responses from two readers who questioned his advice about raising hogs as opposed to chickens.

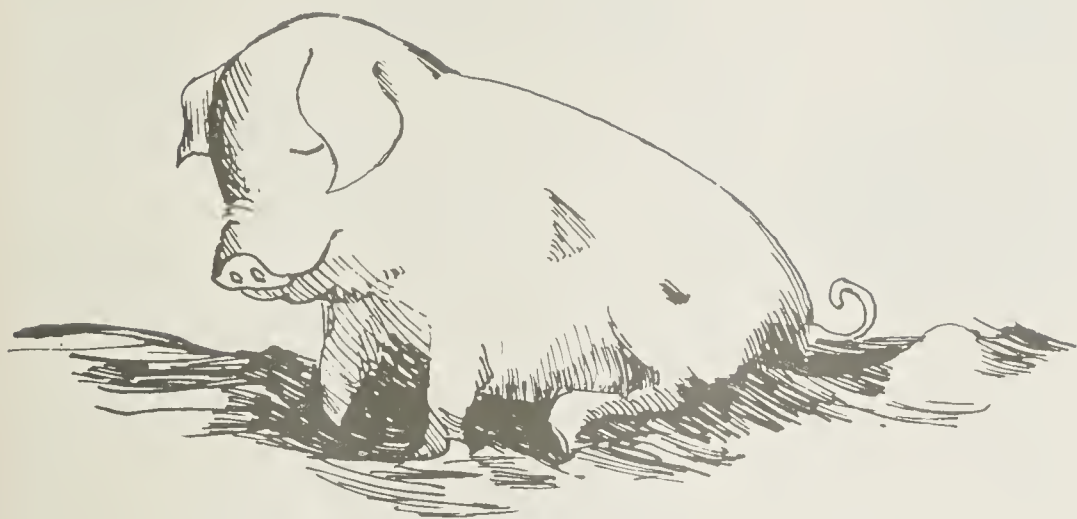
One of the responses came from Shirley Scholtes of Rt. 2, Raeford, who wrote that she'd never laughed as much as she did while reading about the escapades of Silver's chickens.

"I felt the last sentence ("Get a hog") purely begged for another viewpoint, so I'm enclosing mine."

Her "viewpoint," which takes the form of a letter to Silver, is reprinted at right.

The second response, on Page 7, is from Ruth W. Amor of Rt. 1, Gastonia, who takes issue with Silver's advice by relating her personal experiences with two hogs named Bert and Gert.





In reply to Mr. Roy Silver's "The Trouble With Fowls," his last words were "Get a Hog!" Well, I'll take the fowl and he can have the hog!

"Invest in land—they aren't making any more," was the cry—so we did: 27 acres which just had to be used. So it became a farm to make my outdoor husband happy. And we bought two hogs—Bert and Gert!

Once suitably housed and fenced into a big lot, they looked happy enough. We'd even have to walk down to the lot to see that things were in order, for we never heard a sound out of them from our new home.

But, boy-oh-boy, times—and hogs—do change! The bigger they got, the more restless they became—until one day they dug themselves out and took off for freedom.

Up the driveway they plodded—to the road, where they could really cause havoc. I could imagine they'd either be killed by a fast-moving car or cause a car to swerve and bring on a law suit for the replacement of the car—all while two happy hogs gave us a big hog laugh!

My husband, Roy, taught me to get a bucket of feed and pound on the side with a big spoon. This I did, but to no avail: Bert and Gert still headed for the road 500 feet away.

As luck would have it, there were men working in a field across the road. They saw and heard—mostly heard—me and started chasing and coaxing the hogs back into their lot. When Bert and Gert were finally secure behind the fence, the men filled in the holes with boards.

The following Saturday I told Roy and his helper they ought to give their complete attention to the hog lot because Bert and Gert might find another side of the lot vulnerable. Boy, did that bring a laugh!

"They're too dumb for that," said Roy.

"Well, remember, the dogs seemed to find their way out and all the patching with rocks and boards didn't keep them in," I argued.

"Well," said Roy's helper with a big laugh. "Dogs are smarter than hogs and hogs wouldn't think of doing that."

I knew my cause was hopeless, so I gave up the fight.

Four days later—sweet revenge! I looked out the window to see the two "dummies" free as birds, wandering all over the front yard—turning up the rose beds and rooting up the roses with such ease and delight! When they headed for the chrysanthemums, they had a real field day.

Golly, Roy's prized roses and mums—what to do? Then, I remembered the argument I had provoked. I got mad. So, I said to myself: "I'll just let 'em go and see how dumb they really are."

Two hours later, in drives the man of the house, in all his glory! As the car came down the driveway, I noticed it kept slowing down as though the occupant could hardly believe his eyes. Feeling just a little guilty (but not too *much*), I headed for the couch and a magazine so that when he came in all excited I would be the picture of contented composure.

"Did you see what has been going on?" Roy yelled. "Why didn't you do something! My roses and mums are ruined! Where did they go—the hogs, I mean."

"I guess they just wanted to show you they weren't as dumb as you thought," I said. "They proved their point and I proved mine!"

So, Mr. Roy Silver (the Fowl Roy), I'll take fowls any day if I **have** to take either. I've had those too, so I know!

But I'd rather take neither, thank you!

—Ruth W. Amor



People

Brian R. West, a junior at James Kenan High School in Warsaw and Four County EMC participant in the Youth Tour to Washington, will represent N.C. on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Youth Consulting Board.



The son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter P. West, he and 22 other young people from states across the nation will advise NRECA on youth activities and help educate youth on the role of electric cooperatives as energy users and suppliers. (See story, Page 18.)

Ben S. Eason of Raleigh, who was blinded in a football accident at the age of 11, has been named the North Carolina Handicapped Citizen of the Year. Now 55, Eason is an insurance salesman. He is trustee chairman of the Governor Morehead School for the Blind.

Two Lumbee River EMC linemen have been cited for their roles in saving a Lumber Bridge family from a burning home. **William Gregory** and **Nelson Royal** awakened the sleeping family when they noticed the fire after returning from a late-night service call. Their calls to firemen and fellow EMC employees brought help quickly to the scene and "kept the house and contents from being a total loss," according to Robeson County Fire Marshal Wilson J. McNeill. The family included Mrs. Sayde Furr and her six children, ranging in age from three to 12.

Carolina Country Staffers Get Four National Honors

Two members of the *Carolina Country* staff have won a total of four awards in a national communications competition sponsored by the Cooperative Editorial Association.

Associate Editor **Spencer Carter** won two "best of class" certificates for photography and a "merit" certificate in writing.

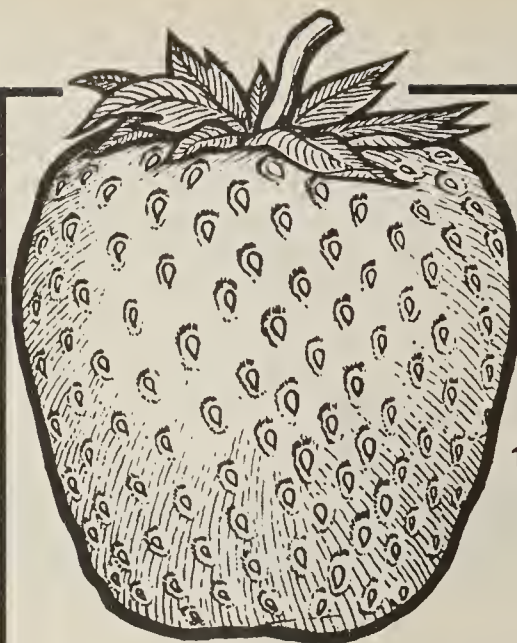


Spencer Carter
Wins 3 Awards

Staff Writer **Margaret S. Howell** won a "merit" certificate for newsletters, in recognition of her work as editor of the *EMC Employee*, the statewide publication for the 2,000 employees of North Carolina's EMCs.

Carter's award-winning photographs, selected from among more than 250 entries nationwide, were a color photo of power lines running along a hillside and a black-and-white photo of power lines beside a highway. The color shot was used on the cover of the 1977 *EMC Directory*, a publication of North Carolina EMC. The second winning photo was used in *Carolina Country* last year.

His writing award was for a story on buying energy-efficient appliances. It appeared in the February, 1977, issue of the magazine.



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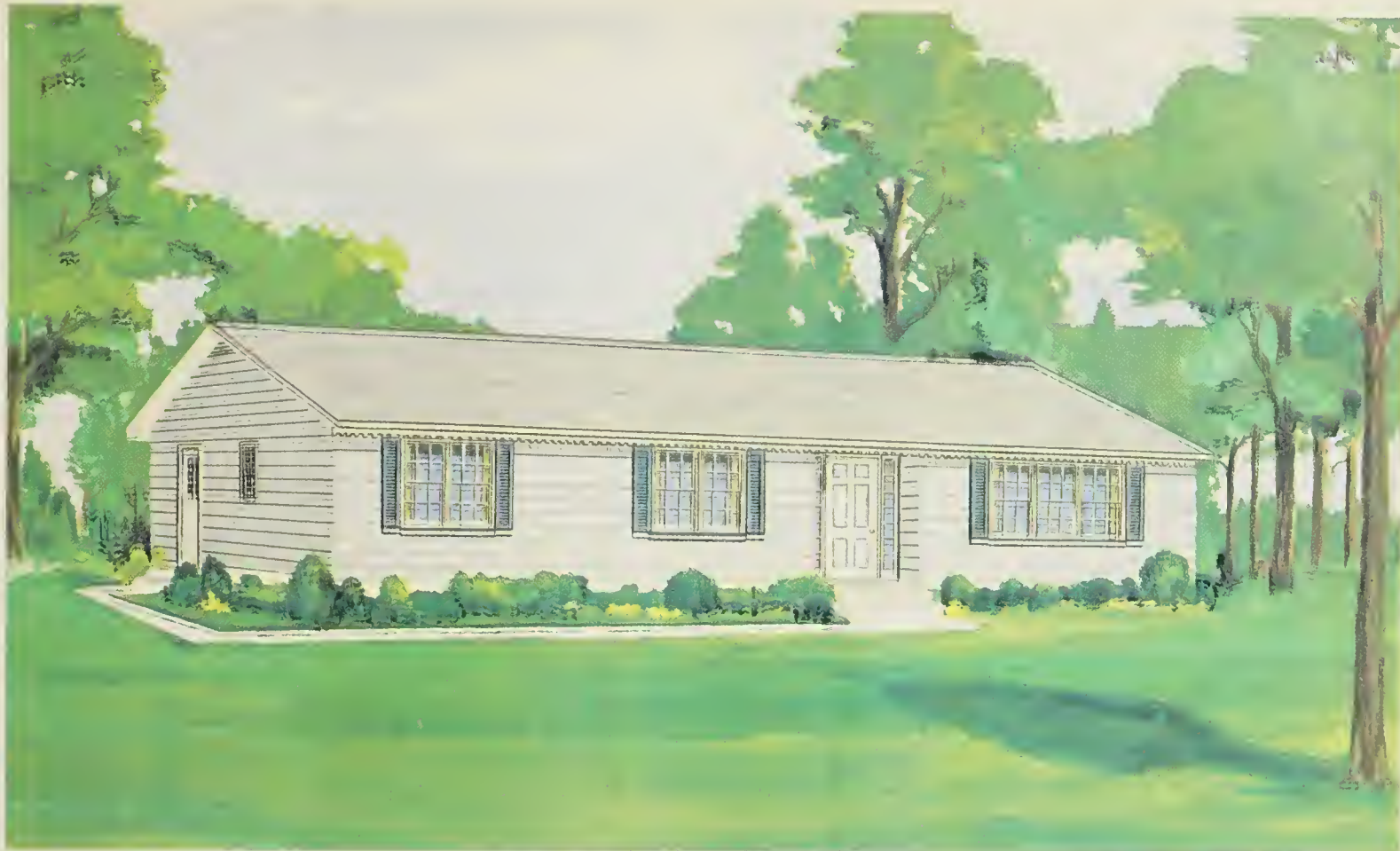
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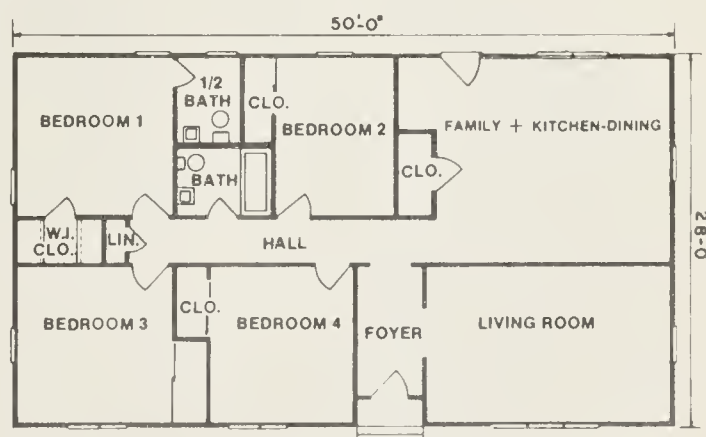
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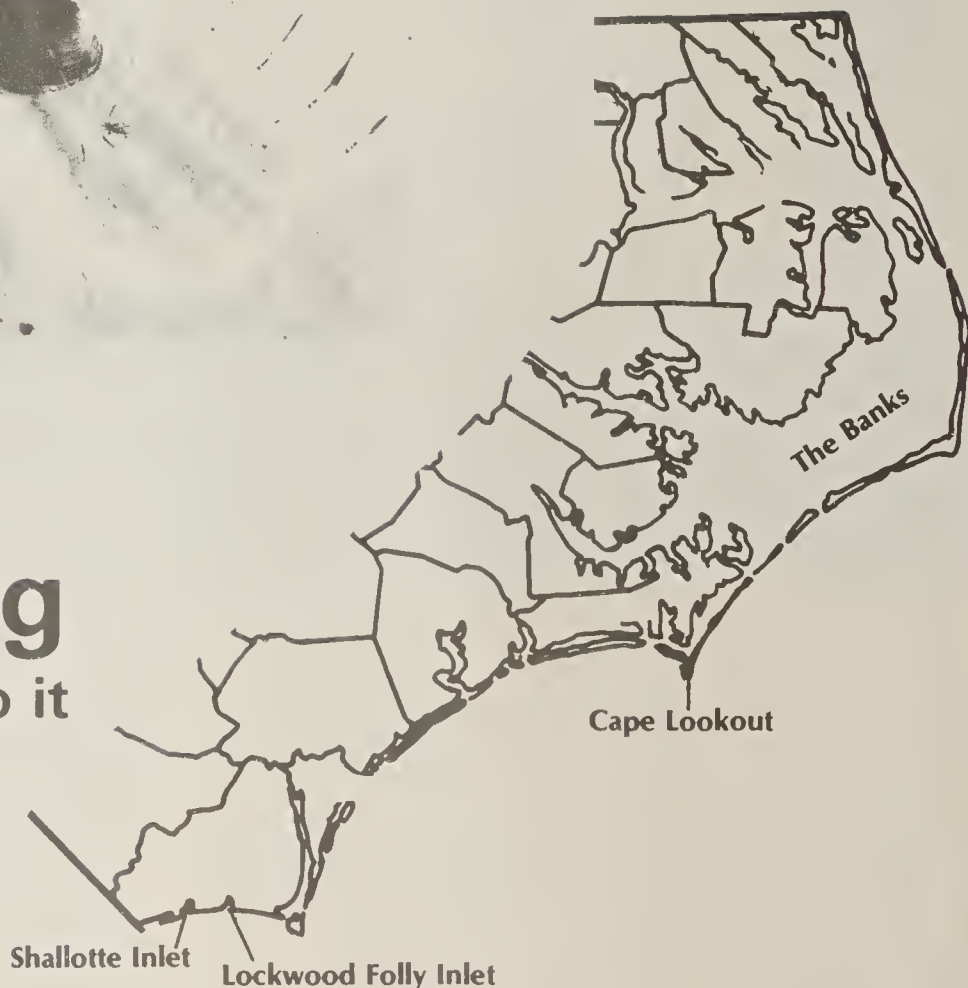
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Shellfishing

how and where to do it



By Peggy Payne

It can be as simple as "toeing." That's when you dig the clam out of the mud with your toes, slide it up the back of your other leg with your foot, then grab it and put it in the bucket for frying, steaming or eating raw.

It can be as mysterious as "signing," when you learn to recognize the holes that shellfish make in the sand.

Whether you use your toe or intuition or a store-bought rake, there are shellfish in the shallow waters of the state for the amateur shellfisherman on a trip to the beach. Clams, oysters, and scallops are there for the finding and eating.

To get yourself a bucket of clams, you ought to hit the beach at low tide, in water from ankle-

deep to knee-deep generally. The best type of bottom is a thin layer of mud over sand. "Then get your rake out and go to raking," said Jim Brown of the Division of Marine Fisheries.

A clam rake has teeth for digging, with a wire basket behind them for flipping the rake over and lifting the clams. There's also sometimes a cross-piece on the handle for working the rake. But you can use a regular garden rake and pick up the clams with your hand. A right-handed person usually puts the right hand near the top of the rake and the left further down the handle.

When you hit a clam, you'll hear it, a ringing sound that is almost like hitting a Coke bottle, Brown said. After you've found a few, you'll hear the difference between

a clam and an old shell. For carrying the shellfish, you may want to float a tub you can pull with a rope.

For opening, a clam knife is stiffer metal than an oyster knife. You start to open a clam at the front. Squeeze the blade into the groove on the side opposite the hinge. Then work the point in to cut the muscle.

The season on clams is open. They can be taken year-round. A license is necessary if you gather more than a bushel a day. And use of a boat may require an additional license. The legal minimum size that can be gathered is an inch and a half.

Clams need salty water. Sounds and inlet areas are good places to look. "I'd go to Cape Lookout," said Brown in his Morehead City office

that looks out on water. "People do it all along the Banks on the inside." Further south he named the Lockwood Folly River and Inlet and Shallotte River and Inlet as good areas.

The taking of all shellfish is prohibited in some of the state's waters because of pollution. The closed areas are posted with orange signs. Eating shellfish from these areas can cause illness ranging from stomach cramps to hepatitis or malaria, Brown said. There is also a fine for violations of this regulation.

The oyster season usually opens around the first of October and runs until about the end of February. There are oysters that grow in clusters of a few or many, and there are oysters that can be found single. But an oyster attaches to something, whether it's a piling or another shell.

You can pick them up, as you walk along the shore at low tide. But be careful not to cut yourself; they're sharp. You can also float along in a skiff and reach down and get them with tongs or a rake. The same general kinds of areas that produce clams are likely to have some oysters. And the licenses for clam and oyster gathering are the same.

See Carolina Homemaker, page 12, for a selection of recipes for preparing shellfish.

The legal minimum size for an oyster is three inches. If you pick up a cluster that has some which are too small, these can be knocked off with a piece of flat metal by tapping them where the shells join.

To open an oyster, use the point of the oyster knife rather than the blade. With your thumb close to the end of the knife, work the point between the halves of the shell near the hinge. "One little slip and you could get a serious cut," Brown added.

Scallops, he says, are "one of the tenderest most delicious edibles in the sound." What you eat is the muscle that holds the

shells together. This is easily detached from the rest of the organism.

The scallop has a thinner shell than the oyster or clam, with ribs that radiate from the hinge.

It requires large bay systems with very salty water. Bogue and Core Sounds have the largest concentrations of bay scallops in the North Carolina waters. There are also some found inside the Outer Banks south of Oregon Inlet.

Like an oyster, scallops attach. But they usually use a blade of grass. They swim powered by a sort of "jet propulsion," Brown said, which looks like "a pair of false teeth biting their way through the water."

You can gather them with a hand rake, lightly pulling it through a grass bed. The scallop stays in the water, but doesn't go down into the bottom.

The season for scallops is very closely restricted. It opens around the beginning of December and lasts three or four months. Sometimes gathering is allowed only on certain days of the week. This is to protect a limited population, Brown said.

Shellfishing is a sport that's both a walk on the beach and a treasure hunt. If the hunt is successful, the day can end in oysters eaten raw and salty right out of the shell, a plate of fried scallops, or a smoking heap of clams steaming over a fire.



Clamming with a rake and a bucket.

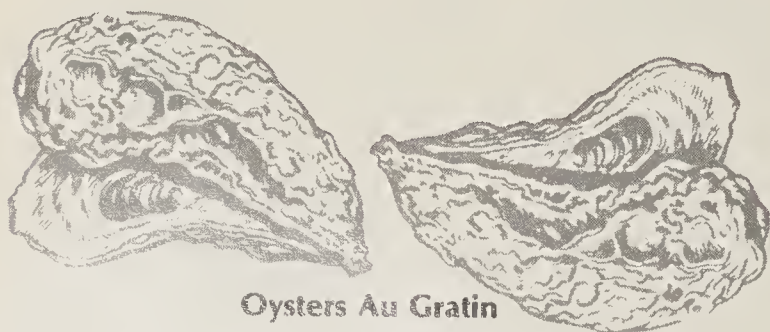
Tasty Treasures From the Sea



Scallop Kabobs

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 lb. scallops, fresh or frozen | 1 green pepper, cut into 1-inch squares |
| 4 slices bacon, cut into squares | 3 tbsp. butter or margarine, melted |
| 1 can (4 oz.) button mushrooms, drained | ½ tsp. salt |
| | Dash pepper |

Thaw frozen scallops. Remove any shell particles and wash. Alternate scallops, squares of bacon, mushrooms, and green pepper on 6 skewers, 7 inches each. Place on a greased broiler pan. Combine butter and seasonings. Brush kabobs with seasoned butter. Broil about 3 inches from source of heat for 5 minutes. Turn carefully, brush other side with seasoned butter, and broil 3 to 5 minutes longer. Serves 6.



Oysters Au Gratin

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 pt. oysters | 1 tsp. prepared mustard |
| 6 slices buttered toast | ½ tsp. paprika |
| 2 eggs, beaten | ½ cup milk |
| 1 tsp. salt | 1 cup grated cheese |

Trim crusts from bread. Cut each slice into quarters. Combine beaten eggs, seasonings, and milk. Arrange layer of bread in buttered casserole, cover with layer of oysters. Sprinkle with grated cheese. Repeat layer, pour milk over contents of dish, and cover with grated cheese. Place casserole in pan of hot water, bake in moderate oven 350° F. for 30 minutes or until brown. Serves 6.

Clams on the Half Shell

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 36 shell clams (little-necks or cherry-stones) | Lemon
Cocktail Sauce |
|--|-------------------------|

Shuck clams. Arrange a bed of crushed ice in 6 shall bowls or plates. Place 6 half-shell clams on the ice with a small container of cocktail sauce in center. Garnish with lemon wedges. Serves 6.

Cocktail Sauce

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| ½ tbsp. lemon juice | ½ tsp. celery salt |
| 1 tbsp. horseradish | ¼ tsp. salt |
| 3 drops tabasco sauce | |

Blend all ingredients and chill. Serves 6.

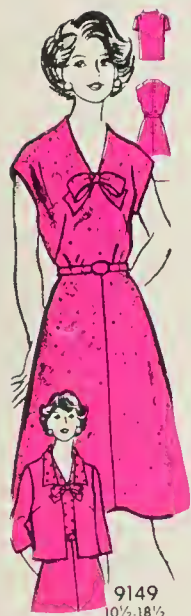
Stuffed Clam

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 cups toasted bread crumbs (prepared from sliced white bread toasted dark) | ½ lb. oleomargarine, melted |
| 2 eggs | ½ tsp. parsley |
| 3 tbsp. mayonnaise | Pepper to taste |
| 2 tbsp. worchestershire sauce | Paprika |
| 1 small onion, grated | 40 ounces of canned minced clams, drained (reserve liquid or 1 qt. shucked quohogs, minced) |
| Juice of ½ lemon with scraping of rind | 20 hard clam shells—about ¼" in diameter |

Wash and boil 20 hard clam shells. Toast bread and place in blender until ground fine. Mix, in a large bowl, bread crumbs, eggs, mayonnaise, worchestershire sauce, grated onion, lemon juice, margarine, parsley, and pepper. Add quohogs or canned minced clams to mixture. Use liquid drained from clams to adjust consistency to that similar to bread dough. Stuff mixture into cleaned and boiled hard clam shells. Sprinkle with paprika. Bake in 350°F. oven for 25-30 minutes or until slightly browned on top. Serves 7-8 people.

The recipes printed above are courtesy of the North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, publishers of *Seafood Cookery in North Carolina*.

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Country Kitchen



ICED GREEN TOMATO PICKLES

What a different, tasty way to put those end-of-summer green tomatoes to use!

Now that it's time to gather the last of the tomato crop, give this crisp and delicious recipe for pickling a try. According to Ouida Sigmon, this recipe has been in her family for many years. "It came to me from our Home Agent and I have used it ever since. We like it and hope you will too," she said.

Sounds like we will!

If you would like to share a recipe with this column, send it to: Country Kitchen, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611. We pay \$5 for published recipes.

COUNTRY KITCHEN RECIPE

Submitted by Ouida Sigmon, Sherrill's Ford, N.C.

Iced Green Tomato Pickles

7 lbs. sliced green tomatoes	1 tsp. cloves
2 gal. water	1 tsp. ginger
3 c. lime	1 tsp. allspice
5 lbs. sugar	1 tsp. celery seed
3 pts. vinegar	1 tsp. mace
	1 tsp. cinnamon

Dissolve lime in water, add sliced tomatoes and soak 24 hours. Drain and soak in fresh water four hours, changing water every hour. Drain, place in kettle. Mix sugar, vinegar and spices. Bring to a boiling syrup. Pour over tomatoes and let stand overnight. Next morning, boil for one hour and seal in glass jars.

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I'd like to say how much my husband and I enjoy *Carolina Country*. We are members of Randolph Electric in Asheboro. I like the covers, recipes, poems, special features and well, just the entire magazine.

Essie C. Mashburn
Rt. 1, Asheboro

A cousin of mine gave me a copy of *Carolina Country*, April, 1977. I was reading the "Salt Secrets For The House." It stated you could throw a handful of salt in a roaring fire in the fireplace and it would clean out accumulated soot in the chimney. I would like to know if it would do the same if you put a handful of salt in an oil heater.

Etta B. Aycock
Roanoke Rapids

John Glover, an engineer with the Agriculture Extension Service at N.C. State University, says this method **should not** be used with an oil heater because it will cause corrosion. In addition, he said, no chemicals should be used in cleaning an oil heater because they will destroy the heater's fire box. The method of cleaning he recommends is to physically scrape out the soot. An old vacuum cleaner might also be used to draw out the soot, he said, cautioning against using the same one that is used in routine cleaning since the soot could be expelled into the house.



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- * I Only Have Eyes For You
- * Anticipation
- * Never My Love
- Rainy Day People
- I Dig Rock And Roll Music
- You're So Vain
- Rock The Boat
- After The Gold Rush

GOLDEN OLDIES

- * The Entertainer
- Bill Bailey
- My Wild Irish Rose
- Sweet Adeline
- If You Were The Only Girl In The World
- A Bicycle Built For Two
- A Shanty In Old Shantytown
- Moonlight Bay
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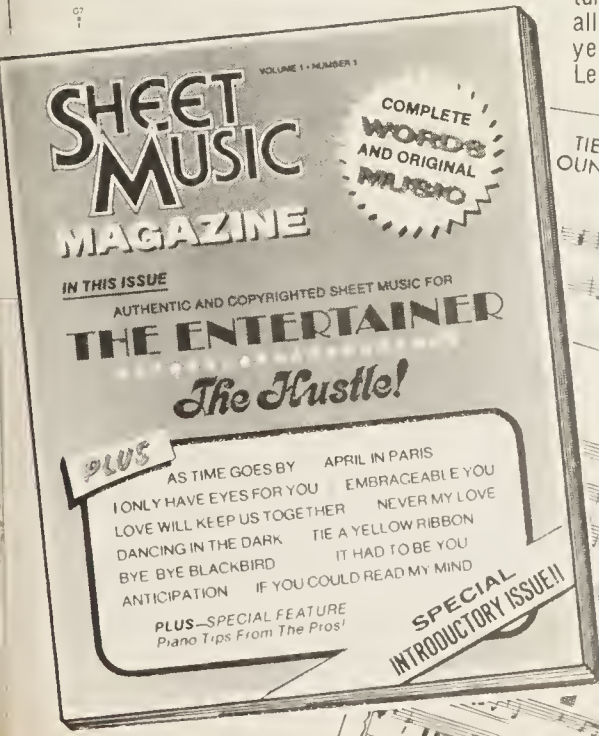
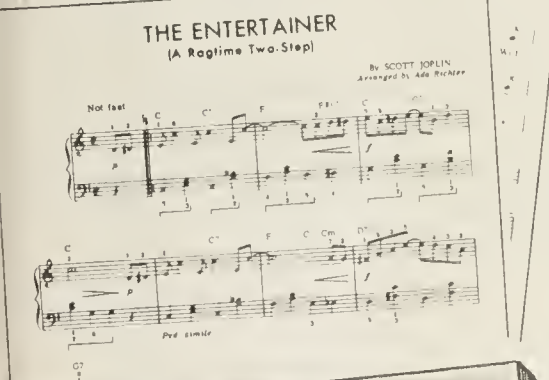
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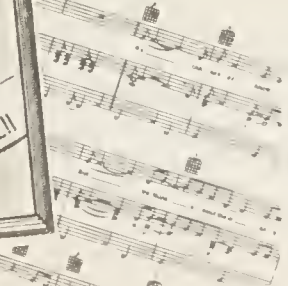
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TIE A YELLOW RIBBON
ROUND THE OLE OAK TREE



ANTICIPATION



Wells Heads New "Public" Staff

Hugh A. Wells, vice president and general counsel for North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, has been named executive director of the new public staff of the State Utilities Commission.

He was nominated for the post by Gov. Jim Hunt and confirmed by the General Assembly. He assumed the post July 1.

The public staff of the commission, which was established by the 1977 legislature, is responsible for representing the public before the commission in rate cases involving investor-owned utilities, such as Carolina Power and Light Co., Duke Power Co. and Virginia Electric and Power Co.

Wells, who was a member of the commission for five years,

resigned from the agency two years ago to take the N.C.EMC post. He has been on a leave-of-absence from N.C.EMC since September, 1976, to assist a legislative committee's study of the state's utilities regulations. As chief counsel for the Utilities Review Committee, he helped draft the legislation establishing the new public staff of the State Utilities Commission.

Under the new arrangement, 92 members of the commission's staff have been split from it to form the public staff, operating under the executive director. The proposal was a major part of Gov. Hunt's legislative package.

Wells gained a statewide reputation as a consumer advocate while a member of the commission, often casting the lone

dissenting vote against proposed rate increases.

In nominating Wells for the new position, Gov. Hunt said, "There is no one in North Carolina better qualified to represent the using and consuming public in utility rate cases. Throughout his career, Hugh Wells has stood for the kind of aggressive consumer protection and concern for the rate payers that I believe is needed in this position."

A native of Shelby, Wells received his law degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1952. He practiced law in Shelby and Atlanta before moving to Raleigh in 1963.



Hugh A. Wells

Devices Bring No Savings

Some time ago we spotted an advertisement in *The New York Times* for the "Kill-A-Watt," a \$100 device that promised to "save up to 28 percent on electric bills." It sounded like a pretty potent weapon in the battle to save energy, so we tried to buy one. However, our shopper's check was returned uncashed—with good reason, as we later learned.

Shortly after the *Times* ad appeared, the chairman of the New York Public Service Commission warned consumers "not to waste their money" on "Kill-A-Watt." Then a subscriber in Colorado wrote to ask us about a similar device called "Powerguard."

"Kill-A-Watt," "Powerguard," and other such devices are known as "transient surge suppressors." They're designed to hold down sudden surges of electricity in a power line. Voltage surges of up to several thousand volts do occur, but they last only for a thousandth of a second or so.

Utility companies and government agencies in at least five states have been trying to defuse the selling of surge suppressors, charging that they are worthless as energy-savers. As one utility official put it, surges are so brief that "the additional power attributable to them is infinitesimally small and is not measured by electric meters."

That doesn't stop the promoters of surge suppressors, however. "I think there's something wrong with their (the utility companies') meters," complained the head of the firm that marketed "Kill-A-Watt" in New York. (He also indicated that the adverse publicity had put him out of business.) "There can be some savings," the president of another surge-suppressor company told CU, "but no one can agree on the amount."

Predictably, manufacturers and utilities both have tests to support their positions, but, based on the tests we've seen, we think it's unlikely that a surge suppressor would be an effective energy-saver.

The New Jersey Attorney General shares that view. In a strong attack on surge suppressors, he filed fraud charges late last year against the manufacturer and several distributors of the "Powerguard." The defendants admitted no wrongdoing but did agree to refrain from making any claims about the "Powerguard's" energy-saving capabilities in advertisements, sales approaches, sales manuals, and the like. What's more, the agreement stipulates that retail contracts and distributorship agreements must now include the following warning: "There is no scientific proof that the use of this product will result in appreciable reduction in electrical consumption."

Well said.

—Consumer Reports

No Consensus On Energy

...Virtually every member of Congress appears to have his own solution to the energy crisis. Some want to emphasize conservation, as Mr. Carter has done, while others seek higher energy production and still others favor stricter consumption controls such as gasoline rationing.

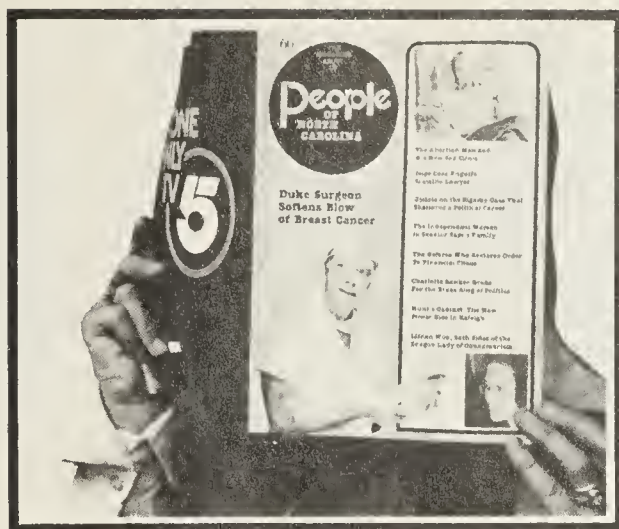
This confusion, we suspect, simply mirrors a wider lack of consensus among Americans as a whole. A recent Gallup

Poll indicated a woeful lack of knowledge on the whole subject. For example, only about half of those interviewed knew the United States

must import oil to meet its energy needs. This may also explain why the President's own ratings in the polls didn't drop appreciably after his energy message. A lot of people either didn't take him seriously, or didn't know what he was talking about. The troubling thing about all this is that, when energy consumption is at stake, we appear all too willing to put off until tomorrow what ought to be done today.

—The Greensboro Daily News

commentary



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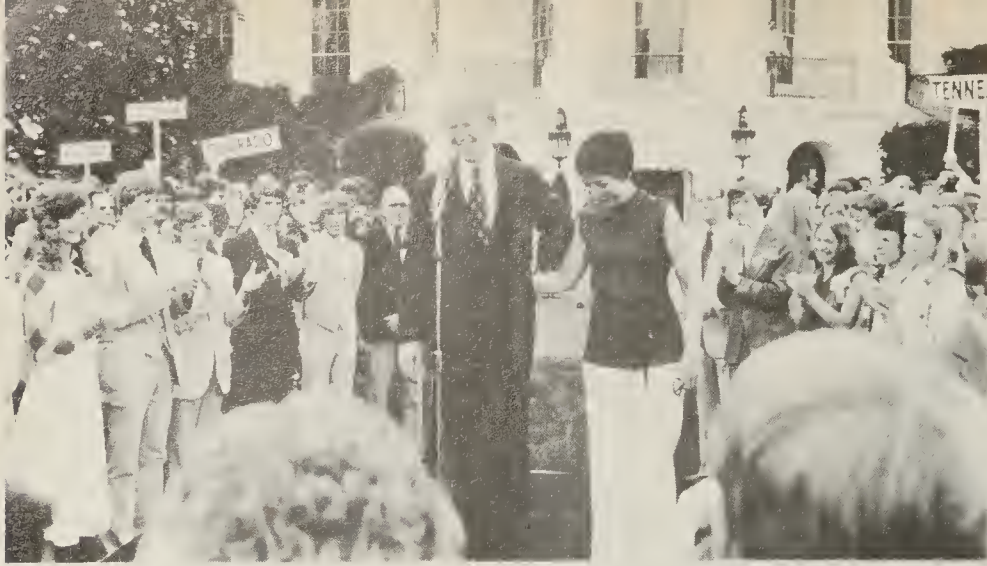
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President Carter and Public Liaison Officer Midge Constanza speak to 1,000 Rural Electric Youth Tourists at White House.



U.S. Representative Charles Whitley talk left to right, Beverly Shepard and Robin J. Jacksonville and Patsy Turner of Burgaw, a Third Congressional District.



North Carolina's Youth Tourists at rally on Rural Electric Youth Day.



... and walked and walked ... and now we have sore feet!

Learning the ropes of government

Thirty-six young people went to Washington, D. C. in June as part of the National Rural Electric Youth Tour. They had a week they will never forget ... seeing such national shrines as the Library of Congress, the Capitol, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Mount Vernon ... visiting the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, where President Carter, the First Lady and daughter Amy watched with them as the renowned French mime Marcel Marceau performed. Using the tune of "Oh, Susannah," they wrote a song to describe how it was during their "unforgettable" week in Washington.

I come from North Carolina
with Tarheel as my name
To learn the ropes of government
is now my biggest aim.

North Carolina!
Oh, aren't you proud of me?
I come to Carter's country
for the Capital to see.

We come from North Carolina
with high spirits in our hand
To do a little boogieing
across this rugged land.

North Carolina!
Oh, play that funkier song
So all the people nationwide
can come and jam along

We came from North Carolina
looking for a Carter treat
And walked and walked
and walked and walked
And now we have sore feet!

Oh, Carolina!
We'd really like to stay
But since you are the state we love
We'll come right home to stay!



Tom Keziah of Brunswick EMC studies photo of Capitol to take home to Shallotte.

Use Warm Season To Insulate

The warm season of the year is the best time to install insulation in your home.

The insulation can sharply increase temperature control efficiency.

Caulking and weatherstripping doors and windows are measures that require a minimum of trouble and expenditure but can cut significantly the costs of operating heating and cooling equipment. Engineers estimate that the savings in energy costs may be as high as 10 per cent.

Consider installing storm windows and doors, if you don't already have them. These items are available for the do-it-yourselfer at widely varying costs. If you find the costs more than you can handle, consider using clear plastic film tightly taped to the inside of the window frames.

The cost of this simple but effective insulating measure might not run more than \$5 or \$10 for the entire house.


A "must" in these times of soaring energy costs and a tight supply of some types of fuels is attic and wall insulation. Practically any home attic can be insulated with some type of material, no matter if it's an old dwelling or one of more recent vintage.

Heating costs could be reduced by an estimated 20 per cent by putting six inches of an approved

insulating material in an uninsulated attic. The homeowner often can do this without having to pay a professional.

Eight to 12 inches of insulation in the attic will help even more than six, which is considered a practical minimum.

Insulating the walls of existing homes is more difficult and will probably require hiring professionals to do the job. But if you are building a new home, by all means consider installing a minimum of three inches of insulation in outside walls.

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To get help, or give help, call

YOUR COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES



EMC WHOLESALE POWER COSTS RISING

Carolina Power and Light Co. has asked the Federal Power Commission to authorize new wholesale rates which would raise the cost of electricity for 18 North Carolina Electric Membership Corporations by about 7.5 per cent annually.

The proposed rate increase would amount to about \$10.4 million a year for all of the firm's wholesale customers, including both EMCs and municipal power systems.

CP&L: Up 7.5 o/o

The rate hike is to go into effect under bond, subject to refund, while it is being reviewed by the FPC.

Although the usual practice is for new rates to become effective almost immediately, the FPC initially delayed the starting date in this case for three months, after the EMCs had petitioned for a five-month delay. Later, acting on a second EMC request, the agency granted the additional two-month delay, setting the effective date for Dec. 29.

The original three-month delay saved the affected EMCs and

municipal power systems about \$2.6 million in power costs. The extra two-month delay saved another \$1.7 million.

The rate proposal is the third CP&L case now pending before the FPC. The first of three, which went into effect in Jan., 1975, was for about 61 per cent or \$9.4 million a year.

The second, asking a hike of 35 per cent or \$13 million a year, became effective in May, 1976.

The FPC has completed hearings on both these increases, but has issued no decision in either case.

Meanwhile, negotiations between CP&L and N.C.EMC officials have produced a tentative agreement on the price tag in the first case. And it has been submitted to the FPC for approval.

The negotiations are continuing with regard to the technical "terms and conditions" which were originally filed as part of the first proposal. For the purposes of the talks, they have been considered as part of the second case since it was filed, and will now be treated as part of the third case.

The cost of wholesale power for six North Carolina Electric Membership Corporations would go up by about 20 per cent under new rate schedules proposed by Virginia Electric and Power Co.

The proposed rate increases have been filed with the Federal Power Commission in Washington and will go into effect under bond, subject to refund, pending the outcome of the agency's review of the new rates.

VEPCO: Up 20 o/o

The FPC has delayed the effective date for the rate increase until November 28. Under normal procedures, new wholesale rates go into effect almost immediately after they are filed with the federal agency.

Plans for a wholesale rate hike were announced by VEPCO officials in May. At that time, the officials said the increases were to be 26.3 per cent for the cooperatives and 33.5 per cent for municipal power systems.

As filed, however, the increases are 19.9 per cent for co-ops and 24.7 per cent for municipalities.

The increase will amount to \$11.1 million a year for the EMCs.



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The 18 EMCs affected by the CP&L rate increase are: Brunswick; Shallotte; Carteret-Craven; Morehead City; Central; Sanford; Four County; Burgaw; French Broad; Marshall; Halifax; Enfield; Harkers Island; Haywood; Waynesville; Jones-Onslow; Jacksonville; Lumbee River; Red Springs; Pee Dee; Wadesboro; Piedmont; Hillsborough; Pitt & Greene; Farmville; Randolph; Asheboro; South River; Dunn; Tideland; Pantego; Tri-County; Goldsboro; and Wake, Wake Forest.

The six EMCs affected by the VEPCO rate increase are: Albemarle; Hertford; Cape Hatteras; Buxton; Edgecombe-Martin County; Tarboro; Halifax; Enfield; Roanoke; Rich Square; and Tideland, Pantego.

The size of the increases was reduced after representatives of VEPCO and its wholesale customers held several negotiation sessions in May and June in an effort to reach an agreement on the new rate schedules.

A total of 21 cities and 19 co-ops in North Carolina and Virginia would be affected by the new rates.

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KILLS THAT MADDENING URGE TO SMOKE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE IN JUST 7 DAYS!

*Without withdrawal jitters — without "slide back" —
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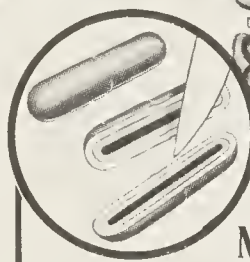
1. Gradually feeds your body a perfectly safe, perfectly harmless synthetic substitute for nicotine — so that during the first few days of this program your body still gets its daily nicotine "kick" . . . BUT in ever-decreasing NON-HABIT-FORMING AMOUNTS.
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There is simply nothing else to say — nothing more we can possibly promise — no greater gift we could possibly give you. You know the risks if you keep on smoking. You know what smoking



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ONE FINAL WORD

Each 2 packs of cigarettes you smoke per day costs you over \$400 a year . . . over \$20,000 per lifetime (as per U.S. Govt. report). This does not even take into account the terrible cost to your health, your nerves, your general well-being. Wouldn't you like to STOP THIS INCREDIBLE WASTE ONCE AND FOR ALL? Act now! Win Your Freedom In Just 7 Days!

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The North Carolina General Assembly moved heavily into the utilities field in 1977, enacting legislation and taking other steps directly affecting utilities.

Here's a summary of what was done:

Power Theft—Declared theft of power and meter-tampering as misdemeanors punishable by fine of up to \$500 or imprisonment of up to two years, or both. (See box, Page 23, for full details.)

Utilities Issues

Municipal Power Systems—Slated a vote of the electorate on a constitutional amendment to permit joint ownership of power plants and facilities by municipal power systems and private power companies.

New Construction-Work-In-Progress Formula — The legislature adopted a measure permitting power companies to include the cost of the plants under construction in their rate base. At present, a plant isn't considered an asset for rate-making purposes until it is in operation. The new formula, to become effective in two years, will include these costs in the rate base.

The legislation was designed to eliminate the current problems related to the financing of

construction: A utility must borrow money to build a plant through the sale of stocks and bonds, but because it takes eight to 10 years to build it, the firm has to borrow more money just to pay the interest on the originally borrowed sum. The secondary interest is eliminated by allowing the companies to use rate revenues to pay off the original capital.

The effect of the statute will be slightly higher rates for the next 20 to 30 years, while consumers pay the "double interest" of plants built under the old financing system as well as the capital costs of plants to be built in the meantime. At the end of that period, some savings from the new financing system will be reflected in the rates.

Reorganization of State Utilities Commission — The legislature followed Gov. Hunt's recommendations here, splitting the commission staff into two groups—a small group to serve under the commissioners and a larger "public staff" which will represent the public interest in all commission matters. The 92-member "public staff" operates under an executive director appointed by the governor.

Lifeline rates — Bills calling for power suppliers to establish below-cost rates for the first 350 kilowatts of usage each month were set aside, as the General Assembly referred the issue to the State Utilities Commission for study.

Legislative Review

In addition to passing several measures in the area of utilities and setting machinery in motion for a fall plebiscite on four constitutional amendments and two bond issues (see stories elsewhere on these two pages for details), the 1977 General Assembly enacted important legislation on a wide variety of issues. Here's a review of 1977 legislative action:

Government Reorganization—Shuffled the state government bureaucratic organization, as recommended by Gov. Hunt.

Death Penalty—Enacted a bill restoring the death penalty for first degree murder, effective June 1.

Insurance—Restricted the power of Insurance Commissioner John Ingram to block rate increases. Under the new procedure, insurance companies will be permitted to put rate increases into effect 90 days

after filing the rate with the Insurance Department, whether Ingram approves or not. The State Supreme Court, on appeal from Ingram, could overturn the increases and order refunds.

Reading Program — Allocated \$45 million for the coming biennium to finance a statewide reading program for elementary grades, as recommended by Gov. Hunt.

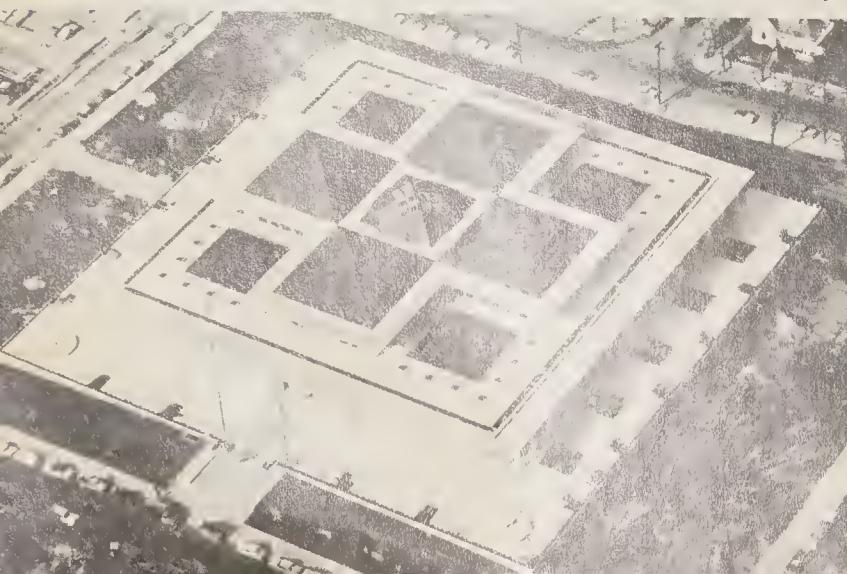
Prison Construction—Allocated \$29 million for construction of new prison facilities.

Marijuana Penalty—Enacted a law to eliminate a prison term for a first offense of possession of an ounce or less of marijuana.

Pornography Crack-down—Adopted statutes to permit district attorneys and the attorney general's office to seek court orders closing adult book stores and x-rated movie houses as public nuisances; and prohibited pornography dealers from operating more than one line of x-rated entertainment under one roof.

Right to Die—Enacted a law defining death as the absence of brain action and permitting doctors to withhold life-sustaining devices in certain, carefully described situations.

Other issues which stirred controversy and debate in the legislative halls without resulting in new legislation included the Equal Rights Amendment, local option liquor-by-the-drink, the gubernatorial veto, twin-trailer trucks and a proposal to make the lieutenant governor ex-officio chairman of the state Board of Higher Education.



New Law Attacks Power Theft, Meter Tampering

Effective Oct. 1, stealing electricity or tampering with an electric meter will be unlawful under terms of a new state statute adopted this year by the North Carolina General Assembly.

The statute, which also applies to gas and water meters, says it shall be unlawful for any "unauthorized

Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars (\$500) or imprisoned not longer than two years, or both fined and imprisoned, in the discretion of the court.

* * *

Whoever is found in a civil action to have violated any provision hereof shall be liable to the electric, gas or water supplier in triple the amount of losses and damages sustained, or five hundred dollars (\$500), whichever is greater.

— Meter-Tampering Law —

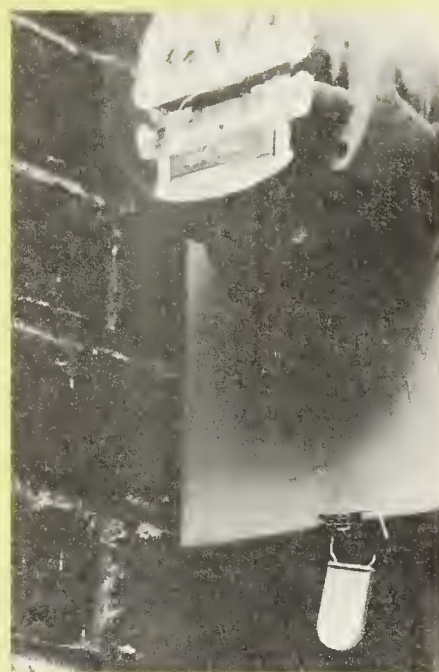
person to alter, tamper with or bypass a meter" or use electricity, gas or water passing through any such tampered meter..."

It declares these acts as misdemeanors punishable by a fine of up to \$500 or imprisonment of up to two years, or a combination of a fine and imprisonment. In addition, those convicted under the law "shall be liable to the electric, gas or water supplier in triple the amount of losses and damages sustained, or five hundred dollars (\$500), whichever is greater."

The statute also stipulates that any meter which is found to have been "altered, tampered with, or bypassed" shall be considered "prima facie evidence" of a violation of the law or intent to violate by the "person in whose name such meter is installed, or the person or persons so using or receiving the benefits" of the unmetered or diverted power, gas or water.

"Stealing power has always been unlawful, but convictions have been awfully hard to get in the past," said Alton P. Wall, interim manager of North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation.

"The problem was that it's pretty well impossible to catch anyone in the act of stealing power. Now, the new law says the meter that's been tampered with or bypassed is evidence



"Prima Facie Evidence"

enough that someone is stealing electricity, or intends to do so," he said.

In recent years, the theft of electricity, or "current diversion," as metermen call it, has become a major problem for utilities across the country—and North Carolina's EMCs are no exception.

In fact, the problem has become so severe in some areas that several EMCs are now requiring stiff repair and reconnection penalty charges when tampered meters are discovered.

Four amendments to the North Carolina Constitution and two statewide bond issues will be placed before the Tar Heel electorate this fall, as a result of actions taken by the 1977 North Carolina General Assembly.

The amendments will seek voter sentiment on gubernatorial succession and new provisions affecting homestead exemptions, life insurance and municipal power systems:

Succession. The governor and lieutenant governor—including the incumbents—would be eligible for a second consecutive four-year term, which is now prohibited.

Plebiscite Issues

Homestead Exemption. The word "widow" would be changed to "surviving spouse" in the constitutional provisions exempting certain property from claims by creditors of deceased citizens. In

effect, the amendment would extend to men an exemption now available only to women.

Life Insurance. Married women would be extended the right to insure their lives for the benefit of husband or children, free of the claims of their dead spouse's creditors.

Municipal Power Systems. The constitution would be amended to allow municipalities to own or operate electric systems jointly with electric companies, and to issue bonds for their purchase or operation.

The bond issue proposals are for highways and water and sewer projects:

Highways. The proposal calls for issuing \$300 million in bonds to finance highway construction over the next five years.

Water and Sewer Projects. The proposal calls for issuing \$230 million in bonds to assist local governments in upgrading water and sewer systems to meet federal standards.

Now Available At Eight EMCs

"Weatherization" Loans Offered

Eight of North Carolina's Electric Membership Corporations have been authorized to administer a federal loan program which makes funds available to EMC consumer-members for home "weatherization" projects.

The loans will be available only to low- and moderate-income families who cannot qualify for conventional financing.

The loans, amounting to as much as \$1,500, will be offered to families having an adjusted income of no more than \$15,600 a year. They cover the cost of equipping the homes with insulation, siding, caulking and storm windows and doors.

The program will make use of funds from the Farmers Home Administration, with all loans

being made at current FmHA interest rates. That rate is presently 8 per cent.

All applications and loan payments will be handled by the participating EMCs.

They are: Blue Ridge, Lenoir; Davidson, Lexington; Randolph; Asheboro; Crescent, Statesville; Pee Dee, Wadesboro; Piedmont; Hillsborough; Roanoke, Rich Square; and Wake, Wake Forest.

The "weatherization" loan program was developed jointly by the Rural Electrification Administration and FmHA. It is being offered to all of the nation's rural electric cooperatives, but participation is optional and at the discretion of each co-op's board of directors.

Under the loan program, the EMCs will:

- Assist consumers in completing loan applications and in determining what improvements need to be made to the homes in question.

- Determine the applicants' credit worthiness, based on their records in paying electric bills.

- Arrange for the weatherproofing work to be done by qualified contractors acceptable to both the cooperative and the applicant.

- Pay the contractor after satisfactory completion of the work, and bill the applicant in monthly installments.

To qualify for the loans, EMC consumers must be unable to pay for the needed improvements without a loan and unable to obtain a loan from another source on terms they could reasonably expect to meet.

In addition, the loans will be good only for housing occupied by the applicant or his tenant.

All loans must be repaid within five years. In the event the borrower's account becomes more than 90 days delinquent, the EMC will transfer the account to the FmHA officials for further servicing.



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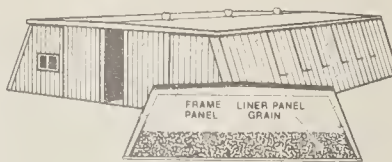
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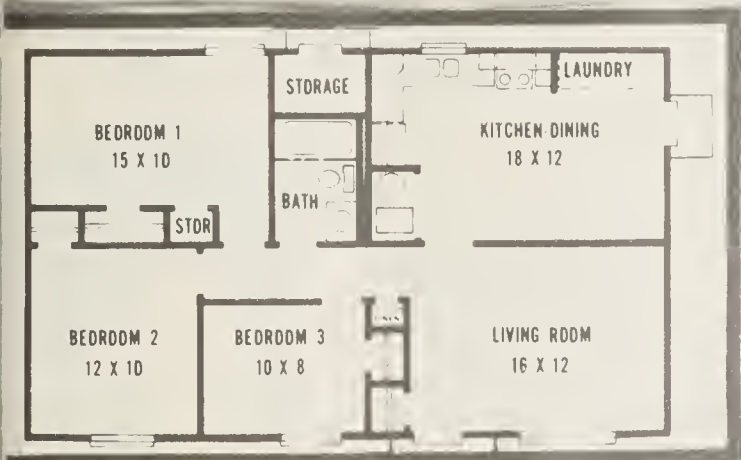
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The John Frankie Singleton family of Pitt County has been selected as the Farmers Home Administration Farm Family of the Year for 1976.

FmHA State Director James T. Johnson said the Singleton family was not selected because of "bigness."

Many Farms Larger

"There are many farms and swine operations larger," he said, "but there are few which represent the spirit of strength and industriousness of the American farm family better than the Frankie Singletons. Here we see one family working together toward a common goal—recognizing and using all available resources of land, management, counseling, financial and technical assistance."

Help From FmHA

With assistance from FmHA, Singleton purchased the family farm on which he had farmed for several years as a partner with his mother. The years that followed included loans to operate the farm, build a swine operation, dig a lagoon, purchase an additional 36 acres and other improvements.

Good money management and keeping abreast of improving farm

practices has contributed to the Singleton's success.

In 1966, the family owned 5 sows with an average of 6.5 pigs per litter. In 1976, the swine operation had grown to about 125 sows with an average of 9.6 pigs per litter. The average for the state and nation is 7.5.

Quality has become synonymous with the Singleton name. Singleton hogs bring premium prices. Their reputation is such that bids are sometimes made without the buyers actually seeing the hogs they are bidding on.

Quality Developed

They have developed this quality through controlled growth within the family size concept, nurtured through family participation, and aided by expert technical and financial advice.

In addition to hogs, the family grows eight acres of tobacco and 12 acres of corn. Tobacco has continued to be profitable over the years with a present average yield of 2,424 pounds per acre.

Corn is stored on the farm in bins and is ground for feed in the Singleton's own mill.

In ten years, the family has moved from a house trailer valued at \$2,000 to a three-bedroom brick

veneer home with a swimming pool on a 138-acre farm.

Pool Was Family Enterprise

The pool was the result of cucumber enterprise which operated by Singleton's wife Linda, and children Crystal, Star, and John, Jr. They agreed to plant cucumbers and use the profits for the construction of the pool and Singleton agreed to build the pool if they would pay for the materials and help with the construction. After five cucumber seasons of much enthusiasm and hard work, the pool was added.

The project is typical of the family involvement that has made the Singletons the farm family of the year.

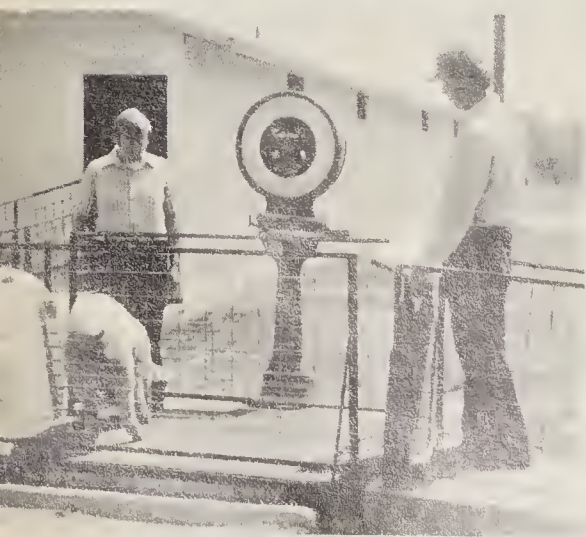
Honored In Greenville

The family was honored at a luncheon in Greenville, attended by agricultural leaders, state and local officials, and friends of the family. Principal speaker was Congressman Walter B. Jones.

The 5th District Congressman emphasized the importance of the Farm Family of the Year program because it "recognizes the backbone of America—the farm family."

People Helping People

N.C. Farm Family of the Year



John Singleton (right) weighs a hog ... the family portrait includes the son-in-law and grandchild ... a piglet gets a vaccination.

FM Radio "Talks" To Bulk Barns

FM radio signals are being used this summer to give orders to 51 bulk tobacco barns in a three-county area of Southeastern North Carolina.

It's not a matter of soothing the leaf with the soft strains of Montovani, and it's not that the farmers have opted for remote control of the curers from the comfort of the farm house.

In fact, this radio broadcasting system goes on the air only during periods of peak power usage in the area.

The project is part of an experiment to test a method of reducing power use by the barns. The FM transmitter shuts off the electric fan motors in the barns when peak demand periods occur on the system of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corp., Red Springs.

The motors are turned off for 7½ minutes every half hour by radio-controlled switches for peak periods of no more than two to three hours.

controlled switch so that farmers can compare leaf cured with and without radio-controlled barns.

Lumbee River EMC is the first utility in North Carolina to make use of a radio-control system to reduce power in periods of peak demand. In addition to the bulk barns, some 4,000 water heaters and air conditioner compressors are also radio-controlled.

A leaf-curing experiment conducted last summer using mechanical timers on blower motors showed that an off-and-on operation does not harm the leaf. Fans operated only 40 minutes of every hour from 3 to 9 p.m., with 10 minutes off and 20 minutes on during the test hours.

This summer's experiment, using radio-controlled switching, is "primarily for the farmers' understanding and benefit," according to Gene Currie, project coordinator.

Currie said that on bulk barns without magnetic starters, it has been necessary to install a relay to

North Carolina State University Agricultural Extension Service has sanctioned the experiment and has established criteria by which to conduct it. At the end of the curing season, questionnaires developed by the Extension Service will be given to tobacco growers taking part in the test and the completed questionnaires will be evaluated by extension specialists.

Barns on 22 farms in Hoke, Robeson and Scotland Counties are being used in the voluntary experiment that is a cooperative effort of North Carolina State University's Agricultural Extension Service, the North Carolina EMC, and Lumbee River EMC. Some barns on each farm are not wired with a radio-

restart the blowers after they have been stopped by the radio transmitter, but this has not presented any major problem thus far.

Lumbee River EMC Member Services Manager John O'Briant said he anticipates that additional barns will be added to the control system in 1978.



When a peak demand period occurs, this control panel at the Lumbee River EMC headquarters office in Red Springs automatically sends out a radio signal ...



...to this switch which project coordinator Gene Currie (right) is pointing out to tobacco grower Donald Bissell. Switches such as this one turn off the blower motors on ...



... about half of Bissell's bulk tobacco barns on his farm near Lumberton.

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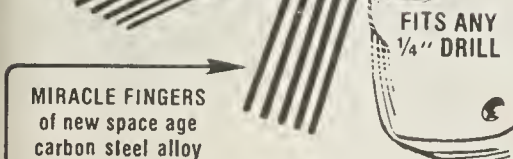
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Q: Why don't all electric transmission lines go underground?

A: Because underground lines cost five to 20 times more to install than overhead lines.

Q: Why so much more?

A: Overhead lines don't require any insulation around them because the conducting wires are separated by several feet of air. Underground, the wires must be insulated from the ground and each other.

Q: Why should that be a problem? Insulated wires that run in houses don't cost much more than open wires.

A: That's true, but house

Q: What's the utilities industry's goal for underground transmission lines?

A: The utilities industry wants to make the cost of installing and operating underground lines much lower. If these expenses can be brought closer to what it costs for overhead lines, a much larger share of new power lines will be going underground.

Q: What are the electric cooperatives doing to bring down the costs?

A: They are helping to sponsor a major test program coordinated by the Electric Power Research Institute to develop better, lower-cost cables

Q&A ON ENERGY

Underground Transmission Lines

wiring is low voltage. When the voltages are a hundred times higher, as they are in transmission lines, the insulation becomes formidable. It's the same idea as the difference between weather-stripping a car door or a submarine to keep water out. The car door is simple and cheap but the submarine is complicated and expensive.

Q: Besides the fact that underground cables are buried out of sight, what other advantages do they have?

A: They're much less vulnerable to vandalism and they are not affected by wind, hail and lightning.

Q: What are the disadvantages?

A: The big drawback is their high cost. In addition, when a break does occur underground, it's harder to find. What's more, because they don't have air around them for cooling, underground lines can't stand up to overloading as well as overhead lines.

and new methods of installing them.

Q: Has that program produced any results?

A: Yes. EPRI has tested new underground cables that may eventually be 15% to 50% cheaper than the traditional type. The institute has developed a simplified method of splicing cables that will reduce installation costs, and proved that underground cables can carry voltages previously thought possible only with overhead transmission lines.

Q: Does that mean long-distance power lines will be buried out of sight some day?

A: More underground lines will be installed as costs come down, but it's unlikely it ever will pay to put all lines underground. In places where there are environmental reasons or dense populations, we'll definitely see more lines buried. But unless we want to pay bigger bills for electricity, overhead lines will be with us for a long time to come



Poet's Corner

Jessica McMammon teaches kindergarten and first grade at Ocracoke School. She writes that she has been composing poetry "for my own pleasure for about eight years." If it has all been poetry equal to her "Summer Cottage," many more will find pleasure in it:

Summer Cottage

Over the years it has been my fate,
Eight months out of twelve
to sit and wait.

Locked and shuttered
against possible intruders,
Curiosity seekers
and wayward looters.

Inhabited by spiders and
an occasional mouse,
Dust settles all over inside of me—
a house

Weathered by wind driven rains
from the sea,
Seasoned by the elements'
own special recipe.

A desolate appearance
I most likely portray,
During the months
that my family's away.
The arrival of May ends
their winter exile,
And abruptly changes
my seasonal life style.

Doors and windows
are hastily opened wide,
Fresh ocean breezes
invade my whole inside.
Days of vigorous cleaning
create a sparkle,
Which imparts to me
a feeling monarchal.

Conversation and laughter
resound throughout,
Adults and children
are scattered hereabout.
A house is my label
when there's only me,
A home I become
with the turn of a key.

For a third of the year
I'm vibrantly alive,
A home for the family—
a bustling beehive.

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Mr. Ervin Huebner
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Flynn H. Bach
Pryse, Kentucky

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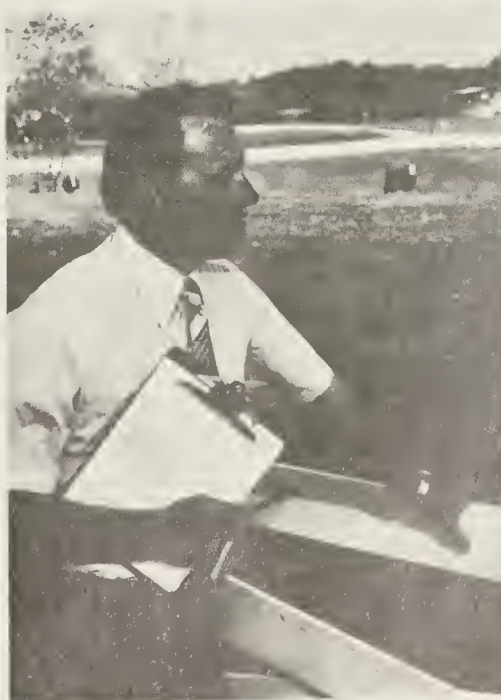
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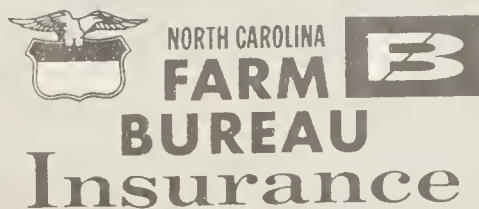


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